Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or an amino acid sequence exhibiting at least 70, 80, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, or 99.5% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase as claimed in claim 1.

3. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of ~~either one of claims claim 2 or 3~~ claim 2.

5. (Original) A host cell containing the vector of claim 4.

6. (Original) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising the *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1, the process comprising culturing the host

cell of claim 5 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

7. (Original) A vector according to claim 4, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

8. (Original) A vector according to claim 7, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising the *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

9. (Original) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.

10. (Original) An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1.

11. (Original) An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 10 for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A medicament, comprising a therapeutically effective quantity of an antibiotic and an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1.

14. (Original) A medicament according to claim 13 for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.

15. (Original) A medicament according to claim 13, being for the treatment of a *Clostridium difficile* infection.

16. (Currently amended) A method of ~~manufacture of a medicament for the~~ treatment of a *Clostridium difficile* infection, ~~characterised in the use of~~ comprising the step of administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective quantity of ~~an antibiotic and~~ an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1.

17. (Currently amended) A method of treatment according to claim 16, further ~~of *Clostridium difficile* infection,~~ comprising the step of administering to a patient ~~in need of same~~ a therapeutically effective quantity of an antibiotic ~~and an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1~~.

18. (Original) A diagnostic test method for detecting the presence in a sample of a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

i) contacting said sample with an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase;

ii) detecting any antibody-antigen binding reaction; and

iii) correlating the results of detection step (ii) with the presence of said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase in said sample.

19. (Original) A diagnostic test method for detecting the presence in a sample of antibody specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1 comprising the steps of:

i) contacting said sample with said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase;

ii) detecting any antibody-antigen binding reaction; and

iii) correlating the results of detection step (ii) with the presence of antibody specific against said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase in said sample.

20. (Currently amended) A diagnostic test method according to ~~either one of claims 18 or 19,~~ claim 18, the sample being a sample from a patient.

21. (Currently amended) A diagnostic test kit for performing a diagnostic test method according to ~~any one of claims 18-20~~ claim 18.

22. (Original) A pharmaceutical pack for the treatment of a *Clostridium difficile* infection, comprising a therapeutically effective quantity of an antibiotic and an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1.

23. (Currently amended) A medicament, method of manufacture, method of treatment, diagnostic test method, diagnostic test kit, or pharmaceutical pack according to ~~any one of claims 12-22,~~ claim 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, or 22, said antibiotic being vancomycin, ramoplanin, teicoplanin, or metronidazole.

24. (Currently amended) A medicament, method of manufacture, method of treatment, diagnostic test method, diagnostic test kit, or pharmaceutical pack according to ~~any one of claims 12-22,~~ claim 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, said infection being due to *Clostridium difficile*.

25. (Currently amended) A medicament, method of manufacture, method of treatment, diagnostic test method, diagnostic test kit, or pharmaceutical pack according to ~~any one of claims 12-22,~~ claim 13, 16, 18, 19, 21 or 22, said bacterium being resistant to treatment by said antibiotic alone.

26. (New) A diagnostic test method according to claim 19, the sample being a sample from a patient.

27. (New) A diagnostic test kit for performing a diagnostic test method according to claim 19.